

Bellevue (OLD) MILK HOUSE (OR DAIRY)  
Bellevue Farm, Baltimore County, Md.  
Near Kingsville

HABS No. MD-34

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN, DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
John H. Scarff - District Officer  
1012 Keyser Building, Baltimore, Md.

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The old milk house or dairy shown in these photographs, which were taken in May, 1937, stands on Bellevue Farm, which lies between Kingsville and Upper Falls, in the Eleventh District of Baltimore County, on the Rolling or Joppa Road (now called Sunshine Avenue.) The milk house stands in the yard back of the residence, which stands on a hill about two hundred yards northeast of the Rolling Road or Sunshine Avenue. This residence was erected in 1887 on the site of an old lathe and plaster house. The milk house is of stone, with a wooden and lattice extension. The stone part measures nine feet by nine feet, more or less. The walls are very thick. Water was pumped into this dairy from a well situated adjacent to it. About a hundred years ago, or less, water was brought to the house from a spring situated about three hundred yards away. This information I had from William Hughes Gilder, who was born at Bellevue about 1828, and lived there in his youth. It is possible that the dairy was constructed after the well was dug. There was no vestige of any spring house or dairy at the spring in my day.

The land was taken up in 1678. That part of Baltimore County was not settled by white people until about 1700. The Rolling Road dates from about this time. Under the name of "Johns Delight" Henry Hedge and wife sold the land to John Boone in 1700. There is no record of whether or not Boone cleared it. There were until recently two white oak trees of considerable antiquity on the lawn at Bellevue, presumably part of the original forest. One of them, which died about 1880, measured about six feet in diameter four feet from the base.

Under the name of "Boones Delight" Thomas Hutchins left the land to his son, John Hutchins, by will, March 1st, 1731/2. Depositions taken in 1738 show that John Hutchins lived on the property and had a plantation there. Tobacco was then the staple crop of the farm or plantation. In 1745 John Hutchins escheated the property in order to clear the title. The improvements on the land were then found to be as follows:

About seventy acres cleared, 40 old and 30 young apple trees.  
One old clapboard dwelling house, twenty feet long and sixteen feet wide.

An old milk house ten feet square.

An old clapboard corn house 30 feet long and 10 feet wide.

A very old forty foot tobacco house.

Hutchins conveyed his right to this property to John Howard, formerly of Anne Arundel County, to whom it was patented in 1746. Depositions taken in 1782 show that Captain John Howard was then living on the property and had been living there "upwards of thirty years" - probably since 1746. These depositions also show that the residence of Mr. Howard was very close to the site of the old house demolished in 1886, where the present house stands. In other words the milk house, if then standing, was within a short distance of the residence and home site of 1782.

Thomas G. Howard, son of Captain John Howard, sold "John's Delight" (Bellevue) to Captain William Hughes, of Baltimore, Maryland, in 1801, in whose family it remained until 1917. William Hughes died at sea. His widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes, died at Bellevue in 1875, aged ninety-nine and some months. Anna M. Hughes, her daughter, married in 1826 John Young Day, who bought out the several heirs and lived at Bellevue from 1826 until his death in 1879. He bequeathed the property to his wife's niece, Mrs. William Bose, (Elizabeth Emma Gilder). The author of this sketch was born at Bellevue in 1886. His mother was the adopted daughter of Mrs. Bose and otherwise related to or connected with the family.

The tradition in the family regarding the old house demolished in 1887 was that it was built by William Hughes, who died at sea about 1810. In all probability, however, the main part of it was built by John Howard, and it may, possibly, have incorporated in itself parts of the small old house which was standing in 1746. On the southern side of the house is a small formal garden edged with boxwood and now much overgrown. Old Mrs. Hughes is said to have planted this garden - probably about 1820. Regarding the age of the milk house or dairy I never heard any tradition.

(Signed) William B. Marye, 1937.